

Date: July 24th, 2025

Track: Del Mar

By Brad Free

BEST BET: Regal Patriot (4th race)

First Race

1. Current Affair	2. Curtsy	3. Heads in Beds
<p>Although still a maiden after nine starts, CURRENT AFFAIR gets top billing in this maiden turf sprint based on recent runner-up efforts vs. good rivals. The filly who beat 'AFFAIR last out returned to finished second in a N1X Saturday; the filly who beat 'AFFAIR two back returned to win her next start. Although five furlongs might be shorter than preferred, 'AFFAIR is the one to beat. First-time starter CURTSY debuts with sharp workouts including a team drill July 17 with well-regarded 2yo Medici, and a team drill July 9 with older stakes winner Sumter. Sired by Into Mischief, CURTSY was produced by a graded stakes winner who also was graded stakes-placed on turf. CURTSY is believed to be very quick. Also-eligible HEADS IN BEDS showed promise finishing third in her debut. She was rated midfield, saved ground, angled outside, finished well and galloped out well. She will improve with racing. SUNGLOW is speed, first start in two months. She benefits by the cutback from six and one-half furlongs to five.</p>		

Second Race

1. Bad to the Bones	2. Excel Calculator	3. Mighty Kai
<p>BAD TO THE BONES can win this N2L claiming route if he reproduces his most recent dirt start. That was a creditable fourth two back at Santa Anita. Claimed last out from an okay fifth on turf, he returns to dirt, which seems his preferred footing. 'BONES is a tepid choice only. EXCEL CALCULATOR drops to \$25k claiming N2L and will roll late. His maiden-50 win three back is fast enough to win a race vs. winners at this level. 'CALCULATOR needs pace to run at; he could get it in this field. MIGHTY KAI finished second last out in a similar race at SA; the winner returned to finish second, the third-place finisher won next out. The point is, 'KAI ran well against good company. MALIBU ROCKS is speed, runner-up last out vs. similar. Kentucky shipper ONE MOR STORY goes sprint to route, second off the claim by an outfit that does well second off the claim (24 percent past five years). 'STORY looks like the speed of the field.</p>		

Third Race

1. Listenupshance	2. Chief Renegade	3. Hephepcutdownnets
<p>Kentucky shipper LISTENUPSHANCE has a potential pace advantage in this maiden-20 sprint. The gelding looks like the speed of the field; the Florida race in which he finished fourth last out already produced two next-out winners. Midwest trainer Kent Sweezey won a couple races at DMR last summer; 'SHANCE is the one to catch. CHIEF RENEGADE chased and surrendered last out against better, but now he moves from the rail to an outside post (6 of 8) and could be positioned second behind the speed. If the top choice falters, 'RENEGADE could be first to pounce. HEPHEPCUTDOWNNETS, off since January, has run well against similar and returns from a long layoff as a first-time gelding. He is likely to fire his best shot first start back.</p>		

Fourth Race

1. Regal Patriot	2. Supernal	3. Tiger in My Tank
<p>The claiming turf sprint wins by REGAL PATRIOT two and three back are fast enough to win this Cal-bred N1X turf sprint. 'PATRIOT finished third last out with a compromising trip on dirt; he now returns to turf with an up-front style and favorable inside draw (post 2). He can win with a pressing trip if he runs back to his recent turf races. SUPERNAL is a question mark on turf; six starts on the surface produced just one third. But he has run fast figures on dirt, he has run okay on turf, and should be rolling from behind while making his first start since being claimed in May. TIGER IN MY TANK should be forwardly placed while making his first start since October. Pace-presser PIPER'S CAUSEWAY might be ranked too low; he missed by a head last out in a similar Cal-bred turf sprint on the SA hillside. The cutback to five furlongs might be okay considering his good efforts racing 1,000 yards at Los Alamitos. This race is a split of race 6.</p>		

Fifth Race

1. Havoc	2. Halo Uncle	3. Blue Cheese Olive
<p>This class level is new at DMR: horses that started for \$6,250 claiming or less this year, and have not won a race this year. It's near the bottom of the barrel. HAVOC finished second last out racing a mile at LRC; he cuts back to six furlongs in peak form with an affinity for</p>		

this track. He is 2-for-4 at DMR, and does have speed to stay in contention. Another horse-for-course is **HALO UNCLE**, whose two DMR starts produced a win and a second. He finished second last out in a strong \$6.2k claiming race at LRC that was won by 14-time winner Howbeit. No such rivals in this bunch. 'UNCLE figures as one of the favorites and will be running late. **BLUE CHEESE OLIVE** improved last out, runner-up despite early trouble. GAVEA is a potential pacesetter in a race without much genuine heat.

Sixth Race

1. Sir Rocket	2. Travelin' Show	3. Case Hit
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This race is a split of race 4. **SIR ROCKET** could have won this Cal-bred condition last out except for an unfortunate trip. He tried to rally inside in the stretch, but got stopped when running room did not materialize. He had to switch outside, took off and missed by only a head. He was best. The cutback from six and one-half furlongs to five should be okay; 'ROCKET has enough tactical speed to be forwardly placed. **TRAVELIN' SHOW** scored a convincing Cal-bred N1X dirt win last out; his turf form is decent. His runner-up finishes on turf during the SA winter meet compare favorably to this group. The comebacker **CASE HIT** scratched from a Cal-bred dirt allowance Friday to wait for this shorter race. Not sure if turf will be his deal, but he is quick and also first-time Lasix. He probably is the one to catch. **MISCHIEFS CAUSEWAY** starts for the first time since April 2024. Gelded since raced, he did win his career debut here as a 2yo in 2023. Upset chance first start back?

Seventh Race

1. Splendor	2. Safa	3. Nay V Belle
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SPLENDORA is the class of this N2X sprint, it's a huge drop following runner-up finishes in a pair of G2 routes at SA. **SPLENDORA** certainly can sprint; she finished second in the G1 La Brea last year and won maiden and allowance sprints last fall. Off two months, speed to be forwardly placed, the favorite looks tough to beat at a short price. **SAFA**, a late-running Cal-bred, will be rolling in the lane making her first start in more than three months. She finished second at this N2X level two back, albeit on turf, then was unplaced in a G3 won by streaking Queen Maxima. Freshened since April, with a bullet workout at SA last week, **SAFA** will be finishing. **NAY V BELLE** dueled, tired, and finished fourth in a creditable comeback last month in Kentucky. She worked twice since including a bullet drill over the DMR track last week. Improvement likely second start back. **SCARY FAST RIDE** won a fast N1X last out, the race was somewhat validated when runner-up Margarita Girl finished second next out vs. maidens. **OOTY** is an Argentine G1 winner making her first start in the U.S. A stablemate of **SPLENDORA**. Although South American imports rarely fire first start in North America, **OOTY** has trained fairly well and might be the exception.

Eighth Race

1. Lady Lollipop	2. Dixie's Delight	3. Rockford Peach
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This class level is another new level for Del Mar: starter allowance for maiden fillies and mares that have raced for \$12,500 claiming or less. It's a soft bunch. **LADY LOLLIPOP** cuts back to a sprint after she bombed as the odds-on favorite at LRC. 'LOLLIPOP is a tough filly to ride, and her ability is modest, but her maiden-50 efforts two and three back are fast enough to grind it out vs. this field. **DIXIE'S DELIGHT** figures as one of the favorites off a runner-up finish last out in a mildly productive race. The third- and tenth-place finishers returned to win. **ROCKFORD PEACH** broke slow, rushed, dueled and faded in a creditable effort last out vs. similar. She is getting better. **PERFECT LIFE** has the highest last-start speed figure, a 50 Beyer earned finishing second in her debut last month.